

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

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LB 951

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 951, a bill by Senator Byars. (Read title.) Introduced January 5, referred to the Transportation Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Byars, you're recognized to open on LB 951.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. I guess I need to ask a question before we go any further if we open. It's 10:11. We have specifically...the Speaker has specifically said we're going to move at 10:15 to other items on the agenda. If I opened, are we going to be able to carry on debate on the bill, or what's going to happen?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: I think that we, as usual, would move to the agenda items at 10:15, as close to 10:15 as reasonably possible. So it would appear you would, depending upon the length of your opening, be able to open, and then we would move to the next...move to the item at 10:15.

SENATOR BYARS: Okay, thank you, Mr. President, appreciate that courtesy. I feel like I ought to go over to the auditorium and get...who's that magician who is performing over there? Maybe he can come wave the magic wand, so I have an opportunity to fully explain this bill. I'm not sure in three minutes that I can even give you the title, let alone the gist, but trying to give you a little bit of a summary and it appears that at least for this year we won't have an opportunity to get back to this bill. But I certainly will return with the legislation next year and, hopeful, will share a little history with you as to why I feel that this funding is necessary. First, let me talk a little bit about the history. In 1994 in LB 1223, it was passed by this Legislature to develop a plan, to develop a statewide trauma system. That plan was developed and presented to the Legislature in June of...in July of '96. In June of '97, LB 626 was passed by this Legislature, which created the infrastructure for the trauma system. And at that time an ad hoc committee was appointed which consisted of a variety of individuals, health organization members, hospital CFOs, insurance reps, EMS folks to determine how would be an appropriate way to fund this plan. After looking at a number of different methods of funding, they